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STEPHANIE KUSIE, M.P.
CALGARY MIDNAPORE

18 March 2020

Dear constituents

I hope you are taking the precautions necessary for you to keep yourselves, and your families, safe as we all deal with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. I also want to thank those of you who continue to provide essential services to your neighbours and your community.

I understand there are many questions about what the days ahead will bring, and how we will get through them. My staff and I are doing what we can to get answers for you and I will continue to update constituents with concrete information as it is available to us. I remain in regular contact with my provincial and federal counterparts, and my Conservative colleagues.

As you are undoubtedly aware, the Prime Minister announced a package of funding for both businesses and individual Canadians whose income will be affected. Assistance has been promised for those who are self-isolating, who have to stay home to care for an ill family member, and who are unable to go to work because of shut downs. This assistance should be available for everyone – whether self-employed or otherwise normally ineligible for EI. Measures will include: establishing a six-month moratorium on student loans; mortgage and loan payments if needed (please contact your bank if you have concerns about meeting these obligations); boosting the GST credit to help low income Canadians; and increasing the Child Care Benefit. The link below will provide information for both businesses and individuals about what assistance will be made available for what we hope is an initial round of support.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/03/canadas-covid-19-economic-response-plan-support-for-canadians-and-businesses.html>

The priority right now is to keep money in the hands of Canadians to try to help protect our economy as much as possible, and ensure you have the money you need to feed your families and pay your bills. While we expect governments and banks to do everything they can to soften the blow from this pandemic, it will be up to Canadians to do their part to help navigate this crisis.

I have questions about the specifics of how these programs will be implemented and who they ultimately help. I will be asking the relevant Ministers to provide more details and will share that information as it is provided to me.

My staff and I will continue to do our best to provide answers as quickly as possible. In order to provide this information as efficiently as possible, we will be sending information via email, and updating my website and social media pages (links below). As we prioritize our resources to help those requiring urgent assistance (for example, constituents stranded abroad), please continue to send your queries via email and we will process them as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Stephanie

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